

# ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

*From Where It All Began*

*... Is Happening Again*

No. 114 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

February 2023

## Local Donations and State/Federal Grants So Far Top \$3 Million

### Rep. Meuser Gains \$750K Federal Grant for Memorial Hall

Just announced, U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser has successfully championed a \$750,000 Community Project grant from the USDA-Rural Development, Rural Housing Service to further enhance the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall and its surrounds. The newest federal grant follows on the heels of a similar size state grant – \$750,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant – approved in 2018 with the leadership of State Rep. Jerry Knowles and support of State Senator Dave Argall and State Reps. Neal Goodman and Mike Tobash.

“We are truly grateful to Congressman Dan Meuser for listening to the history, mission and dedication of this building to honor our veterans and for partnering with the greater Orwigsburg area community for the benefit and use of this landmark for Schuylkill County and its citizens,” stated Veterans Memorial Taskforce President, Robert S. Carl, Jr.

The Taskforce has been working hand-in-hand with Orwigsburg Borough since 2005 to renovate the Veterans Community Memorial Hall – a perfect exam-



ple of public-private partnership in action. This latest award takes the project fundraising effort across the \$3 million threshold.

Other government grants have been received through Pennsylvania DCED, DEP and DCNR. Additionally, contributions from local private corporations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens have played a major fundraising role for this renovation/restoration endeavor.

#### *Honoring past and present veterans*

Originally dedicated on Saturday, July 22, 1950 following five years of local fundraising and construction after World War II, the building was commonly referred to as the “Orwigsburg Memorial” for the past seven decades. Its 1950 dedication plaque reads “Erected in Memory of the Veterans of All Wars.”

That sentiment and honor of purpose has followed the building from the start and continues to this very day. The renovated complex continues its mission, featuring the Veterans Foyer of Honor,

*– Continued on page 2*

## 2023 EVENTS

Listed are the planned community events that have been scheduled at this time.

**Orwigsburg Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt** at Albright’s Woods Community Park, Saturday, April 1, noon.

**Fisher’s Dam Children’s Fishing Rodeo** – Fisher’s Dam on So. Washington St. – Children (age 13 and under); Saturday/Sunday, May 6-7 – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

**Memorial Day parade/service** and Lions Club Chicken Barbecue – Monday, May 29; activities begin 8 a.m.

**Square Time – June Jamboree** – Thurs., June 8 – 5 to 8

**Farm-To-Square** – Thurs., Aug. 10 – 5 to 8

**Orwigsburg Heritage Day** – Saturday, Sept. 9; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Orwigsburg Halloween Parade** – Wed., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. (Rain Date is Thursday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.)

**Halloween Trick-or-Treat** – Tues., Oct. 31; 6 to 8 p.m. (Rain Date is Wednesday, Nov. 1; 6 to 8 p.m.)

**O’burg Holly Trail • Festival of Lights • Night of Lights** Saturday, Dec. 2; starts at Noon • 4:30 p.m. • 5:30 p.m.

## On the inside . . .

Police Presence Increased.....	Pg. 4
Have an Escape Plan & Practice ...	Pg. 6
Vintage Holiday Expo Is May 7 ....	Pg. 12
Lenten & Holy Week Services.....	Pg. 16

## 2023 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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Council Vice President..... Brock Stein  
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Secretary..... Sherry Edwards  
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Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak  
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Angela Hoptak-Solga • Brock Stein  
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Shawn Reichart

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

David Teter

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Police Station Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Currently there are no unique COVID-19 precautions in place for public attendance at either of these meetings. The public is urged to exercise masking and social distancing as one's personal needs dictate.

### OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed in observance of the stated holidays in 2023 - Presidents Day, Feb. 20; Good Friday, April 7; Memorial Day, May 29; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 4; Veterans' Day, Nov. 10 (observed); Thanksgiving, Nov. 23 and 24; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 22 (observed) and 25; New Year's Eve and Day, Dec. 29 (observed) and Jan. 1, 2024.

## Memorial Hall Grant

- Continued from Page 1

a tank monument along Grove Street opposite the building entrance, and the Hall houses a veterans' services office. A public rededication is being planned sometime in the near future.



The newest \$750,000 Community Project funding through Congressman Meuser will help furnish the Foyer and Veterans Office, provide additional recognition boards, add facility equipment for multi-purpose uses, provide for further building security, build-out enhancements to the tank monument to include pavers, benches, military service flags, etc., and additional building needs.

- Robert S. Carl, Taskforce President

## Gabriel Chamber Ensemble



### Final 2 Concerts of our 33rd Season

Sunday, Feb. 26 – Beethoven String Quartet  
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# Orwigsburg Police Department

## Increased Police Presence, Visibility Were 2022 Goals

The Orwigsburg Police Department has marked an active year of 2022 – establishing a DARE program at the Blue Mountain Middle School, changed its vehicle livery, and was more visible throughout town than ever before.

In April, we took delivery of a 2022 Ford Explorer, replacing a well-travelled 2016 vehicle since donated to the Friendship Hose Co. fire department. With the delivery of the new vehicle, we decided to update our vehicle livery that hadn't been changed since the 2000s.

We kept the patriotic graphics, but used a blue color scheme. This serves two purposes – it honors law enforcement and pays tribute to the colors of the Blue Mountain Eagles. The new graphics are unlike anything else you'll see on a police car and make our department stand out!

### ***DARE Program at BMMS & BMEE***

Beginning in October, we established a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program at the

Blue Mountain Middle School. Many of our residents may have been through DARE classes if they attended school in the 1980s or 90s. During that period, the curriculum focused on teaching these young people about drugs and their effects.

The curriculum has now evolved and expanded to help students deal with relatable issues they face in everyday life. Since October, sessions have dealt with risks and consequences and how students can handle feelings and emotions. While drug education is important, it is tertiary to giving youngsters the proper tools to under-

stand consequences and make responsible decisions.

We will be expanding our DARE program to the Blue Mountain Elementary East teaching second graders, starting in the first quarter of this year. We thank the administration of the Blue Mountain Middle School and Elementary East for always being supportive of the OPD, and allowing us into the school.

### ***Neighborhood policing***

One of the goals we had for 2022 was to be out of the office and more visible in town. To that end we made a conscious effort to, not only do more foot patrol, but to also do more traffic enforcement.

Foot patrol has always been a priority for our department. It enables you (the public) and us to interact and converse in a friendly setting as opposed to during an emergency when stress and emotions run high. In 2021, we did 287 hours of foot patrol. In 2022, this number increased by 33% to 430 hours.


One of the biggest complaints we receive are traffic violations throughout town; most notably crosswalk and speeding violations. Last year, we initiated 798 traffic stops that led to 563 traffic citations and 447 warnings. While the number of warnings we issued remained relatively consistent (432 in 2021), our traffic citations increased by a whopping 50% (from 285 in 2021).

We rounded out 2022 with 2,219 incidents – an average of six calls per day. From these, the Orwigsburg Police Department handled 116 reportable crimes. The plurality of arrests we made were generally for DUIs and summary crimes such as harassment and disorderly conduct. However, we did have multiple arrests for crimes such as drug possession, assaults, thefts, and sex offenses.

We'll be out of the office on foot and in our cars as much, if not more, in 2023. We hope to see you around town!


– Officer Robert Bechtel, Patrolman





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## From the Desk of the Fire Chief . . . Scott Rarick

### Fire Alarms – Have an Escape Plan & Practice It!

Planning and preparation can go a long way. The (USFA) United States Fire Administration shares the following tips with respect to fire escape plans:

- Have two ways out of your building.
- Not only have a plan; but, more importantly, practice that plan.
- Draw a map of each floor of your home. Be sure to include windows and doors.
- Review the map with everyone living in the home.
- Practice the home fire drill at least 2 times per year.
- Ensure that all doors and windows open easily.
- If there is smoke, remember to “Stay Low and Go” to get out of the building.
- Crawl quickly under the smoke and proceed to the nearest exit.
- Once outside, gather at a predetermined meeting/collection point.
- After you’re outside, then call 911.
- “Get Out and Stay Out” – DO NOT go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- If anyone is still inside, let first responders know immediately.

Fire Prevention isn’t only in October; it’s important all year long. By having functioning smoke alarms, demonstrating good habits, having an escape plan and practicing it – these measures can go a long way to saving lives and protecting property.



#### Remember, it’s still winter!

With most of the winter season behind us, we’re likely not out of the woods – with respect to snowstorms. So, here’s my message to all residents that have fire hydrants near to their homes.

Kindly conduct some housekeeping in the event of a snowstorm. Please remove the snow around all sides of the hydrant. A good rule of thumb is to have 3 feet of clearance in all directions. This allows us to locate the hydrant, connect to it, and turn it on in short order. Time is of the essence for us, and this goes a long way to getting time back on our side.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

#### R&J TOURS – 2023

##### DAY TOURS

Mar. 30 – “My Mother’s Italian” @ Tropicana; <b>\$25 FSP</b>	.....\$95
April 1 – “Sister Act” @ Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre	.....**\$99
April 5 – “Murder at Mount Hope Mansion”	.....\$89
April 11 – “Four by Four” @ Wind Creek Casino; <b>\$30 FSP</b>	.....\$81
April 15 – Washington DC Free Day	.....\$62
April 22 – NYC Free Day	.....\$59
April 27 – Kenny Rogers Band @ Tropicana; <b>\$25 FSP</b>	.....\$95
May 6 – National Zoo	.....\$62
May 6 – Phillies vs. Boston Red Sox	.....\$92
May 7 – Peddlers Village Strawberry	.....\$39
May 7 – Phillies vs. Boston Red Sox	.....\$87
May 13 – “Grace for President” @ DADT	.....\$58

##### OVERNIGHT TRIPS (Prices Based on Double Occupancy)

April 16-18 – Tropicana Casino	.....\$258
May 21-23 – Seneca Casino Trifecta	.....\$389
May 30-31 – Frankie Valli Trib@Resorts World Catskills	.....\$197
June 4-6 – Resorts Casino	.....\$316
June 4-8 – Virginia Beach	.....\$612
June 18-23 – Mackinac Island	.....\$1,998

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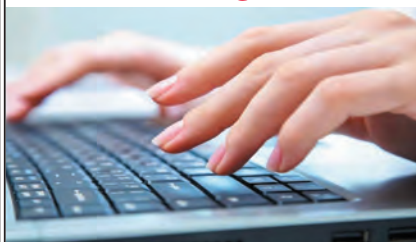
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# Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

## 2023 Marks the 45th Year of Serving Our Community

There is so much to explore and experience at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Come and see! If you haven't been here before, we're located at 216 West Independence St. in Orwigsburg. Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

We just started the new year, but 2023 already has a host of fun Library events lined up. Your Library is always thinking of new and unique ways to provide educational and recreational programs.

### Upcoming events

**Book Launch Party** - Meet & greet author Jennifer Raudenbush as she presents readings of her book on Saturday, March 18 at 1p.m.; children's crafts.

**Happy Birthday Celebration** - By invitation, a 45th Birthday Bash celebration, benefiting the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library, will be held on Friday, May 19 from 7 to 10 p.m. Stop in at the Library for invitation information.



### Adult programs

Your Library serves all ages. Following are some of the adult groups who meet regularly to share and enjoy specific interests. Community members are welcome to join.

- **Book Club** meets on the last Monday each month at 6 p.m. to discuss a book that was mutually chosen at the previous meeting.
- **Mahjongg** (a Chinese tile game) holds a strong group interest. Players meet on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday monthly at 6 p.m. Those wanting to learn the game or improve their abilities also meet every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Health Talk with Dr. Christine Bruce** presents a topic of interest every third Monday at 6 p.m.

### Children's story programming

Just started up again in February:

- **Traditional Story Time** with Miss Robin, encouraging young ones to love reading through socialization, song, movement and simple crafts - held every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

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## Orwigsburg Library

• **Lapsit** (geared for tots from birth to age 2) is a perfect blend of reading, fingerplay and song to promote learning - held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

• **Play K** (perfect for youngsters 3-to-5 years old) introduces kindergarten behavior with circle time, calendar concepts, manners, taking turns and sharing through themed lessons - held on Fridays at 11 a.m.

• **Homeschooler Happenings** is featured on the third Wednesday each month at 11 a.m.

### What's new in 2023?

**Trivia Club** - Are you a "know-it-all" on a particular topic? Be a Trivia Host! All ages are welcome to join in. Held the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. Upcoming themes include - March 22 - Spring Trivia; April 26 - Pennsylvania Trivia; May 24 - Disney Princess Trivia.

**Lego Club is back!** - Come build on the 1st Saturday of the month at 11 a.m.; **Adult Crafting** is featured on the 3rd Saturday, 1 p.m.; and **Kids Crafting** is enjoyed on the 4th Saturday, 1 p.m.

There is so much happening at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Check the Library's website - [www.orwigsburglibrary.org](http://www.orwigsburglibrary.org) - and Facebook page for ever-growing events, programs, fundraisers and new things that pop-up all the time.



## State Sen. David Argall

For the next two years, I will have a new role in the Senate - Chair of the Education Committee.

My Grandfather Argall once taught in a rural one-room schoolhouse where he was paid partially in vegetables, long before he taught at Cressona Elementary. My mother was discriminated against because young mothers in the 1950s were told to "stay home, teach later." We've made considerable progress since those days; but our students, parents, teachers, and staff still face significant obstacles in too many of our schools.

My goal is to further improve the education of all Pennsylvania students, from pre-school to grad school.

In this new role, I would encourage all college students to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible.

The FAFSA is an application required to apply for federal student aid such as federal grants, work-study and loans to help pay for college. To apply and qualify for a Pennsylvania state grant, all must have their FAFSA on file by May 1.

To file your FAFSA, visit the website for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency:

[www.pheaa.org/college-planning/fafsa/](http://www.pheaa.org/college-planning/fafsa/)



Senator  
David Argall



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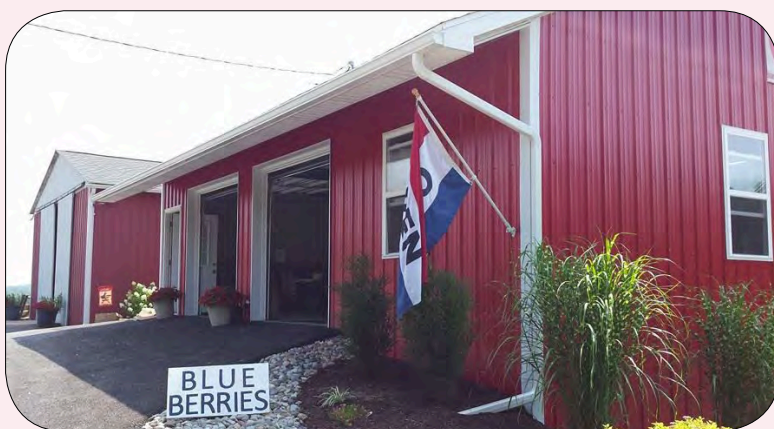
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# Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Assoc.

The Orwigsburg Area Business and Professional Association (OABPA) closed out the past year and welcomed in the new with a flurry of organizational changes and improvements.

One minor, but significant change, can be seen in our revised logo designed by local graphic designer Susan Reichert. Our membership voted to recapture the word and branding of "Area" in our name, as the organization was officially incorporated back in 1989.

Our By-Laws were also changed to recognize that the OABPA boundary "focus" would be all of the 17961 zip code and beyond to include all surrounding villages, rural partners, and communities beyond just the borough limits. We welcome new members - businesses, professionals, non-profit organizations, and individuals - no matter what your address is. Anyone who cares about this area of Schuylkill County and wants to preserve and improve it through OABPA is encouraged to be part of our mission.



## 2023 Board of Directors

OABPA has elected its 2023 Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs. They are Jeff Lentz (M&T Bank-Orwigsburg), President; Brenda Binns (Brenda Binns Fine & Graphic Art), Vice President; Kay Jones (St. John's United Church of Christ), Secretary; Bill Knecht (South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing), Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair; and Allen Fidler (Advisemint Financial Partners and Tracall Properties, LLC), Events Committee Chair. Additional OABPA Board Members include Attorney Ben Forbes (Williamson, Friedberg & Jones law offices), David Teter (Orwigsburg Borough), Melissa Valentine (Edward Jones), and Lila Smith (Lillian Lockwood, LLC).

## Upcoming Community Events

OABPA announces its 2023 calendar of sponsored community events, promising exciting, entertaining and affordable activities for residents and visitors of all ages.

Square Time is a time of celebration, sponsored and coordinated by OABPA, for residents and visitors.

All festivities in the 12th annual schedule will be held on or about the OABPA Community/M&T Bank lot at the center of our beautiful town square.

Square Time showcases local businesses, area performers, artists, crafts-people, food trucks and other unique vendors.

**JUNE JAMBOREE** - Always eagerly anticipated, June Jamboree will kick off the summer on Thursday, June 8 from 5 to 8 p.m., featuring family fun, games, food, and live entertainment.

**FARM-TO-SQUARE** - This annual town favorite will be held on Thursday, Aug. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. It's our end-of-summer blowout event, featuring local farmers and their market goods, wineries and breweries, activities for children, live music and more.

**HERITAGE DAY** - OABPA is busy planning the 31st Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration. Always slated for the Saturday following Labor Day, this year it will be on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year, OABPA members will get FREE vendor space at this event to showcase what they do and produce.

**SMALL BUSINESS WEEK** - True to the mission of OABPA, nothing is more important than the promotion and support of our small business members in Orwigsburg and surrounding communities. Kicking off the day after Black Friday, Small Business Week will run from Saturday, Nov. 25 thru Saturday, Dec. 2. Promotional ideas are now being explored and solicited from its membership, residents, and non-members alike. Email us at [orwigsburgbusinesspa@gmail.com](mailto:orwigsburgbusinesspa@gmail.com).

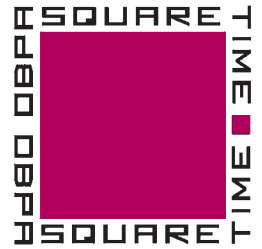
**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** - It seems we've just gotten over last year's Christmas and holiday season events, but residents and visitors can mark their 2023 calendars for our town's annual Festival of Lights celebration slated for Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning at 4:30 "on the square." This OABPA-coordinated time always brightens the festive season and puts an exclamation point on the year.

## Improving our community for all

Supporting other organizations in Orwigsburg and its surrounding region, is a prime part of OABPA's mission.

In past years, OABPA has purchased sidewalk benches and trash/recycling containers for the Orwigsburg downtown "square," the wayfinding sign at the M&T/Community Parking Lot, an AED unit for use in one of the Orwigsburg Police vehicles, tree planting on and near the town square, assisting an Eagle Scout project to provide quick connectors on Borough fire hydrants and street markings for their locations, and last year a financial grant to help the Orwigsburg Historical Society maintain its "Old Jail."

Join us! We want new members with great ideas and help on event planning! Email our Membership Chair - [billknecht@southschuylkill.net](mailto:billknecht@southschuylkill.net) for an invite!



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# Orwigsburg Historical Society

## Vintage Holiday Expo – Show, Sell & Trade Slated May 7

Join the Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) on Sunday, May 7 for its first ever “All Holidays Vintage Show, Sell, and Trade” show at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall, 300 Grove St. This expo will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This event is for anyone who buys, collects, trades, and/or sells – or just enjoys seeing – vintage holiday decorative arts. All vintage holiday and seasonal items are welcome. Think Christmas, Halloween, Easter, Valentine’s Day, Mother’s and Father’s Day, patriotic holidays, and any other day that is celebrated.

Vendor set-up fee is \$40; general admission for the non-vendor public is \$7. Members of the Orwigsburg Historical Society pay a discounted \$30 as a vendor and \$6 non-vendor admission. OHS member’s children enjoy free admission. Great food options will be available for sale all day.

Call 570-366-8769 or 570-617-7809 with questions, for additional info, and vendor registration.

### Support local history; become a member

In addition to restoring and revitalizing the former Friendship Hose Co. No. 1 firehouse and our

town’s “Old Jail,” the Orwigsburg Historical Society provides free public programs on local history topics, conducts genealogy and property searches, houses a research library, and maintains a museum

filled with local artifacts that tell the story of Orwigsburg and Southern Schuylkill County’s rich cultural heritage and history.

OHS exists, and continues to operate, thanks to donations and annual membership contributions from people and businesses, past and present, that consider the Orwigsburg region their hometown or adopted new town. Won’t you please consider a membership in the OHS.

### Monthly programs are open to all

OHS announces its 2023 monthly program series “Tracing Schuylkill County’s History” that is free and open to the public. All are featured on the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m., and presented at the society’s headquarters and museum at 109 E. Mifflin St. in a “live audience” setting. Light refreshments and fellowship accompany all programs. Attendees are welcome to bring photos and items for sharing.

- **PA’s Historic Barns: Featuring our Historic Red Barn** – Thursday, April 20 – by Gregory Huber.
- **History of the Ham Radio** – Thursday, May 18 – by Allan Shepler.
- **The Reading Railroad: Then & Now** – Thursday, June 15 – by Dale Woodland.
- **Beginning the Search for Your Pennsylvania Roots** – Thursday, July 20 – by James Beidler.
- **History of the Tumbling Run Resort** – Thursday, August 17 – by Rick Nagle.

### Wanted, volunteers!

Over the next several months, the Society will work on a number of projects at the museum. Volunteers are urgently needed to help. If you are interested in assisting, please call the Society or email [peanut1212@comcast.net](mailto:peanut1212@comcast.net). You can also message us via our Facebook page.

### 2023 29th ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP

*Celebrating 29 years of preserving the history and culture of Orwigsburg and Southern Schuylkill County in 2023!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (Please Check One):

☐ Individual \$20.00 ☐ Family \$25.00 ☐ Corporate \$50.00

I would like to make a contribution to the “2023 29th Anniversary Campaign” to help with much needed revitalization to the historic headquarters in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This contribution is “in honor of” / “in memory of” (please circle one) the following person/family:

**MAIL THIS FORM AND  
CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum  
109 East Mifflin St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961**

**Phone 570-366-8769 for more information**

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**HOURS:  
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat. by Appt.**





# Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

## Lions Club H.E.L.P.

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" (HELP) provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149.

## Orwigsburg Senior Citizens

Are you at least 55 years of age and interested to join others your age for old-fashioned fun, socializing, a little bit of business, and great conversation? Well, we would like you to join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month for just that!

Following the winter months of January and February, the Orwigsburg Senior Citizens (OSC) will begin meeting again on March 14 at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall, located at Grove and North Washington streets. To belong to this group, you must be 55 or older and pay your yearly dues of just \$3 for the year.

Our meetings start with socializing from 11 to 11:45 a.m. over coffee and cookies. This is followed by the meeting opening and welcome. We break from noon to 12:30 p.m. to enjoy a bag lunch or snacks that you have brought, then back to meeting from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and then Senior Time, featuring a program, Bingo, or other entertainment.

On March 14, we will discuss plans for the year and celebrate birthdays from the past months. Ellen "The Hat Lady" will entertain on March 28. She has a hat for every song she sings.

In April, Brian Reading will sing spiritual songs on April 11; Bingo will be enjoyed on April 25.

Pat McKinney – also known as Porcupine Pat – will provide an entertaining talk on Schuylkill County history on May 9. We're planning to eat lunch out on May 23, either locally or we'll take the STS bus.

We are seeking interesting programs and speakers for our meetings. If you know of someone who has an interesting hobby or talent – or if you do programs yourself – contact OSC President Gerri Rae at 570-366-4670.

## LIHEAP may be available to you

Residents struggling to pay home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now. This program runs until April 28, 2023.

The federally-funded LIHEAP program helps indi-

viduals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance cash grants sent directly to your fuel/utility provider. The program includes crisis grants should there be an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination of utility service.



The income limit for an individual is \$20,385; for a couple, the limit is \$27,465; and for a family of four, it is \$41,625. The grant award amounts vary from \$300 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting your County Assistance Office.

## Easter egg hunt

The Easter Bunny will make a special, early visit to Orwigsburg on Saturday, April 1 (no fooling) for the annual egg hunt sponsored by the Orwigsburg Lions Club. The event will be held at Albright's Woods, located on Grove



- Continued on page 14



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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

- Continued from Page 13

Street, just east of the Little League field and will begin at 12 noon.

All children from the Orwigsburg community through the age of 10 are invited to hunt for eggs, all filled with yummy candy treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special "prize" eggs will be part of the selection for each age group.

This will be a B.Y.O.B. event ... Bring Your Own Basket! After the Easter egg hunt, there will be a chance to take your child's picture with the Easter Bunny. This is a free event and will be held rain or shine.

## Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue

Don't forget the annual Orwigsburg Lions Club Memorial Day chicken barbecue held as part of the Memorial Day festivities on Monday, May 29.

The chicken is barbecued on the spot at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall. A full dinner is available for eating there or packaged for takeout. Tickets will be sold in advance and some may still be available during the event. All proceeds are used by the Lions to sponsor local events.

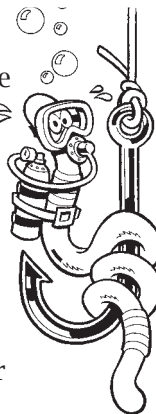
## Fisher's Dam Trout Rodeo

The 2023 Orwigsburg Children's Trout Rodeo is being planned for Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day for children 13 years of age and younger.

Fisher's Dam, located at the base of S. Washington Street will be stocked for the event. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help youngsters learn how to fish; but, are forbidden to hold the fishing rod.

Held last year following several years absence, the successful continuation of this rodeo relies on donations from community members and local businesses.

Additional information and updates can be found on Facebook. Search for 2023 Fisher's Dam Trout Rodeo.



## Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry

Distribution of food for the needy from the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, operating from St. John's UCC, 232 East Market St., will continue for the foreseeable future as a drive-thru on the third Saturday of each month.

Non-perishables or monetary donations are always needed. Call the Pantry at 570-366-2255 for more information, need, or to help in any way.

## Borough holiday schedule

Orwigsburg Borough offices/operations will close in observance of these upcoming holidays - Friday, April 7 (Good Friday) and Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day).

## Monthly large item pickup

One large item (furniture, etc.) may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month. The collection date is the second Tuesday of each month for residents north of Market Street ... and the Friday following the second Tuesday for residents on Market Street and south.

### LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

Month	Tues.	Fri.
Mar.	14	17
Apr.	11	14
May	9	12
June	13	16

Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because

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## Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash.

### **Holiday refuse/recycling collection**

The Borough contracts with Anthracite Waste Services, Inc. for the weekly collection of refuse and biweekly recycling collection. Curbside collection is on Tuesday for properties north of Market St. ... and on Friday for properties on and south of Market St.

Collection will delay one day due to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday – Tuesday pickup moves to Wed., May 31; Friday pickup moves to Sat., June 3.

### **You're invited to Public Meetings**

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets twice monthly – a “work session” on the first Wednesday and a “business session” on the second Wednesday – in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Police Department building, 209 N. Warren St.

All meetings are open to the public. Council affords any Borough resident the opportunity to speak on any topic of local concern during a “Public Comment” period. Those persons wanting to speak should contact the Borough Office in advance.

The meeting agenda will be posted no later than noon the day of, and at, the meeting location. The

Borough's website – [Orwigsburg.gov](http://Orwigsburg.gov) – will also have the meeting agenda and related topic information.

### **Utilities problem? Call the Borough first!**

“I have a problem with my Water or Sewage system. What do I do?”

If you have a simple leak, call a plumber. But, if you have a clog and don't know why or you need to have your water turned off because of burst pipes, call the Borough Office – 570-366-3103. After office hours, call the Orwigsburg Police at 570-366-3101 or the non-emergency county EOC at 570-628-3792 to dispatch the necessary personnel.

Orwigsburg Borough requires all Water and Sewer utility customers to notify the Borough Office when there is any situation involving these systems requiring maintenance performed by a contractor.

If your property has an apparent clog in the waste system resulting in your need to hire a contractor (i.e. Roto Rooter, or others) to remove the clog, you must notify the Borough before you do. This will allow the Borough to perform an inspection to determine where the problem lies and to possibly resolve the problem. Failure to contact the Borough in advance may result in all costs being your responsibility.

The Borough, at its discretion, may hire the contractor ... might perform the work itself ... or, if the issue is determined to be the property owner's responsibility, recommend the owner hire the contractor.



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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## St. Paul's Lutheran

Members and friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 215 North Warren Street, welcome everyone to join us in praising God, serving our neighbors, and sharing the love of Christ as part of our growing community of faith. We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. While we treasure our past, we are working together toward an even brighter future.

We worship together at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Holy Communion is shared on the first Saturday of the month and at every Sunday worship. Please check our Facebook page, website, or call our office for changes to our worship services or schedule of events due to inclement weather.

Community children, ages one-thru-10, are invited to join us for Sunday school during the 10:30 a.m. service every second Sunday of the month. Come for Bible stories, songs, crafts, snacks, fun, and fellowship.

We will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22 at 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion will mark this special service.

A mid-week Lenten service will be held in the church at 7 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 1 and continuing each Wednesday through March 29. The topic of this year's series is "Gathered Around the Cross."

Join us for our second annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza!" All community children, up to the age of 10, are welcome to join us any time between 10 a.m. and 12 Noon, on Saturday, April 1 in our church gathering room. We will have picture opportunities with the Easter Bunny, crafts, games, refreshments, and prizes!

Our Holy Week worship will begin with the 5:30 p.m. worship service on Saturday, April 1 and then at both Palm/Passion services on Sunday, April 2. Join us to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as the story of his Passion.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on April 6 at 7 p.m., as we reflect upon the events of our Lord's Last Supper.

The Sharing of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar are part of this special service.

A service of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") will be held on Good Friday, April 7 at 7 p.m. Our worship will focus on our Lord's suffering and death upon the cross for the sake of the world. During this service, lit candles will be extinguished, and hymns will be sung that remind us of the price Jesus paid for our sins.

We will worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on April 9 at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will be filled with festive music as we gather to share the very Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, and celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed."

Our church office is open from Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. You can call Pastor Michael T. Petresky or our Office Support Staff at 570-366-2316. Please leave a message if our office is not open when you call.

Please visit our Facebook page, website, or YouTube to watch our online videos or for more information about upcoming events or activities.

Everyone is Welcome! Come and see!



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg

Office: 570-366-2316

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

Handicap  
Accessible



### Worship Times

Saturdays 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion shared the first  
Saturday and every Sunday service.*



### ASH WEDNESDAY – February 22 (7 p.m.)

Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

### "EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA!"

All children up to age 10 are welcome! – Sat., April 1 (10 a.m. to Noon)

### MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 6 (7 p.m.)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

### GOOD FRIDAY – April 7 (7 p.m.)

A Service of Tenebrae

### THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – EASTER

Sunday, April 9 (8 and 10:30 a.m.)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Many Joyous Alleluias!

Please check out our Facebook page and website. Visit us on YouTube to watch our online worship. Or call our Church Office at 570-366-2316 for more information.



## New Awakening Church

Do you ever feel like there's always something new to worry about? Like, just as soon as you've solved one problem, another pops up? Life can be hard sometimes. Anxiety and frustration can be all too familiar. But the cycle can be broken.

Jesus said that he came to bring peace on earth and to set the oppressed free. So, when you pray and tell God your struggles, he will make a way for you. And please feel welcome to come and tell us, too. We want to pray for you. That's what we're here for.





# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Because life can be hard, we need each other.

New Awakening began with a vision to create a space where you could encounter God's love, realize His purpose for your life, and delight in who you were created to be. In short, it would be a place of love, truth, and new beginnings. We're not perfect people, but we really want you to know that you matter and that you're valued by God.

Service is every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at the Schuylkill Racquet Club in Orwigsburg (25 S Greenview Rd)! Or you can join us online at [facebook.com/newawakeningchurch](https://www.facebook.com/newawakeningchurch). Check us out at [www.newawakeningchurch.com](http://www.newawakeningchurch.com) for more information.

You can also connect and meet some new faces during one of our mid-week group gatherings. We have a men's fellowship, a women's fellowship, a youth group, and even a fellowship for moms and school-aged children (that includes a gym class)!

During Holy Week, join us for an Easter egg hunt on April 2, Good Friday service on April 7, and Easter Sunday service on April 9! We'd love to meet you.

## St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg hopes this brand new year of 2023 will bring good health and blessings to everyone. We invite anyone who may be looking for a place to worship to visit us any Sunday at 10 a.m. Our doors are always open to new faces. Communion is served the first Sunday of every month and our service can be viewed on Facebook and the church website - [StJohnOrwigsburg.org](http://StJohnOrwigsburg.org).

Pastor Jeff Johnson leads the Sunday worship service that always includes a special message for children. Younger children are then led to Sunday school while other family members stay for the remainder of the worship service.

Pastor Jeff provides a Facebook devotional every Tuesday afternoon and a Facebook posting every Thursday with a positive "thought for the day."

St. John's proudly houses the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry that is supported by eight area churches and many civic organizations, businesses, schools, scout troops and the Orwigsburg Lions Club. Distribution of pantry food for those in need is held every third Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m.

and is distributed by drive-thru only.

Volunteers to help with this monthly distribution are always welcome and, of course, donations of non-perishable food are encouraged as well. Food can be dropped off to the church office, located at the rear of the church. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon.

St. John's sponsors Cub Scouts, an exercise group for seniors, an engineering club for 7th through 12th grade students, and a Lego engineering club for grades 1-thru-6. Please phone the church office at 570-366-2255 for details. There are many other community meetings and events that St. John's provides during the year and those will be posted on the Facebook page or the church website.

Lenten and Easter week services will be: Ash Wednesday on February 22 at 7 p.m.; Palm Sunday on April 2 at 10 a.m. with the choir cantata presented that day; Maundy Thursday on April 6 at 7 p.m.; Good Friday service on April 7 at noon; and Easter Sunday at 10 a.m.. Please join us during this Holy season for meaningful worship.



## St. John's United Church of Christ

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### LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SERVICES



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 22 (7 p.m.)

**PALM SUNDAY**

April 2 (10 a.m.)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

April 6 (7 p.m.)

**GOOD FRIDAY**

April 7 (Noon)

**EASTER**

April 9 (10 a.m.)

**Online Worship Services at**

**[StJohnOrwigsburg.org](http://StJohnOrwigsburg.org)**

Check our Facebook page, website, or church sign for information.

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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## Kimmels Church

Why is it that most people long for the turning of winter into spring? Spring brings the hope of warmth and sunshine and gives us more freedom to enjoy the outdoors. It rejuvenates our souls. It reminds us of new life as we begin seeing trees bud and flowers bloom. Our dreams of summer activities begin to become reality as the temperatures rise. It simply feels good.



That's how it feels for Kimmels Church as we get closer and closer to Easter. It is the hope where the coldness and darkness of this world meets the reality of the ever-increasing love of God in and through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This celebration of Easter gives us faith that a change in the world has come and a hope that all things will be made new. It is a reality that we experience here, and one we want to invite you to experience as well.

On Palm Sunday, join us for service at 10 a.m. followed by our annual community-wide Easter Egg Hunt at 3 p.m. We will have great fun with awesome prizes, a gospel message, and thousands of filled Easter Eggs.



179 Pine Creek Drive  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
570.943.2759

### Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 2 - 3 pm

### Good Friday Service

April 7 - 6:30 pm

### Easter Worship Services - April 9

Sunrise Service - 6:15 am  
Morning Worship Service - 10 am



As our gift to you we are sharing this link to Right Now Media where you'll have FREE access to thousands of Biblical videos and studies for adults, teens, kids, small groups, plus more!

For additional information visit our website: [kimmelschurch.org](http://kimmelschurch.org)

Bring the whole family. The hunt is available for children, birth through 10 years old.

Our Good Friday service will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 7. Easter will offer a sunrise service at our Chapel at 6:15 a.m. followed with our celebration service at 10 a.m.

Starting February 22, in anticipation of Easter, we are beginning a "40 Days of Prayer and Fasting" emphasis focused on God's plans for our church and in our community.

Throughout Schuylkill County, many would say we have been experiencing a spiritual winter. Winter that has held people captive to their addictions, circumstances, depression, and fears by the coldness and darkness in our world. The Liar and Deceiver has kept this spiritual winter alive and well for far too long.

It is time to welcome new life and freedom in our communities. This new life and freedom are none other than our resurrected Lord, Jesus! Jesus, being fully God and fully man, was the only one who could and did declare, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." He also declared, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Come and learn about Jesus through our sermon series - The Rediscovered Jesus - every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. In our study through the gospel of John, we will rediscover who Jesus truly is, not what the world would have us believe.

Jesus is God. Jesus is in search of you. Jesus gives life when you believe in Him. Jesus wants His life in you to be your priority. Our theme verse for this series is John 20:31, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

## Amazing Grace Baptist Church

Greetings! My name is Adam Shedal. I grew up in New Ringgold and I feel privileged to shepherd a local congregation.

At Amazing Grace Baptist Church, we focus on providing real, spiritual help in a Biblical and practical way. All spiritual help begins with the Gospel. We share this Good News with everyone - that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose again three days later.

Jesus's shed blood is the only payment for your sin, the only escape from hell, and the only hope for an eternity in heaven. Your part is to make a "by grace through faith" decision to receive Jesus as your personal Savior.

In addition to the Gospel message, we also provide help for life's most pressing difficulties. - COVID 19, political turmoil, economic uncertainty, and the normal pressures of life that often lead to stress, anxiety, discouragement, and despair.

Is there still hope? Yes, hope is always available through Jesus. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me..."

This begs the question, "How can we obtain this



# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

hope?" God's invitation is twofold. First, come to me. Second, learn to be like me. Both aspects must be true in your life before God's promise of rest can prevail.

We recently started a Bible Study series called "Quieting a Noisy Soul" to help people obtain this promise of rest. This series bridges the gap between man's problems and God's solutions.

If you are looking for God's help in your life, come join us and learn God's solution to the noise in your soul. The Bible study begins every Sunday night at 6 p.m. I would love to meet you personally and help you live a life of quiet rest. God bless.

## Faith Church

One of the blessings we have in Schuylkill County is when we endure another winter in the Northeast; then we get to enjoy the beautiful transformation from winter to spring.

Faith Church, located at 1168 Centre Turnpike, just outside town on Rt. 61, is honored to be part of the Orwigsburg community. I'm senior pastor Douglas Cresswell. We do our best to give back in special ways.

I believe Orwigsburg in the spring is one of the prettiest areas in America. We have this quaint well-done community, surrounded by farmland and wooded hills as the grass and greens come alive. The birds and animals are revived and the pure beauty of our community arises.

We at Faith Church are so excited for 2023. This

past year, we released our "Finding Purpose With E's" program providing individuals a way to work thru a series of programs to help each identify God's plan and purpose for their life.

This year we are taking a step further introducing the "Faith Life." Promoting people to live the Christian life all week. Not just on Sundays or on occasion; but, in work, in play or at rest.



We have new energy in our Children and Youth areas. We have recently hired a new Youth Pastor - Bobby Oravitz - who brings a ton of experience from children and youth training. He is graduating soon from Messiah University.

Now that our area appears to have turned some corners regarding the COVID virus, our attendance numbers have rebounded and we are excited to move thru 2023. We have numerous ministries to assist those suffering from cancer, addiction and the loss of a loved one. At Faith Church our ministry statement is Loving God, Loving People and Serving the Community.

I love it here in Orwigsburg and I would love to have you visit us on a Sunday at 10 a.m. I promise you, we will make you feel right at home.



## AMAZING GRACE

### BAPTIST CHURCH

**Bible Based,**

**Gospel Centered, and**

**Family Focused**

We look forward to meeting you and helping you grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**Join Us at These Worship Times**  
**Sunday School, 10 a.m. • Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.**

**159 East Adamsdale Road • Orwigsburg**  
*(Meeting in the Pioneer Evergreen Banquet Hall)*

# FAITH CHURCH

loving God - loving people - serving the community

**Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell**  
**1168 Centre Turnpike**  
 (next to Ark Rentals)

**Orwigsburg, PA 17961**  
**570-366-5131**

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**Sunday 10 a.m.**



**[www.atfaithchurch.com](http://www.atfaithchurch.com)**



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